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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-05 OMB-01 H-01 NEA-09 IO-10 EB-07

SAB-01 /091 W
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R 162000Z JAN 75
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9597
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 4890
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
USLOSACLANT
CINCLANT
CINCUSAFE
CINCUSAREUR

S E C R E T USNATO 0195

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO
SUBJ: NAC MEETING JAN 15, 1975 - US STRATEGIC AIRLIFT BRIEFING

REF: A. STATE 8376 B. STATE 7283 C. USNATO 55

BEGIN SUMMARY. AT COUNCIL MEETING JAN 15 MAJOR GENERAL CASEY, USAF (JCS), IN GENUINE TOUR DE FORCE, BRIEFED ALLIED AMBASSADORS ON US AIRLIFT CAPABILITY AS DEMON-STRATED DURING MID-EAST WAR, US AIRLIFT MODERNIZATION PROGRAM, AREAS OF CONCERN IN EUROPE AND HOW NATO PLANNING COULD IMPROVE UTILIZATION OF EXISTING ALLIED AIRLIFT RESOURCES. QUESTIONS ADDRESSED TO GENERAL CASEY FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION CENTERED ON POSSIBLE ACTION NEEDED BY GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE CIVIL AIRLIFT AVAILABLE TO THE ALLIANCE, VULNERABILITY OF AIRLIFT AIRFIELDS IN EUROP, US LONG TERM AIRLIFT PLANS,
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AND PERFORMANCE OF US AND SOVIET AIRLIFT IN MID-EAST WAR. CHARGE BOSS (FRG) ASKED ABOUT GLOBAL RANGE OF US AIRLIFT. NATO AMBASSADORS UNANIMOUSLY LAUDED THE QUALITY OF BRIEFING; AND SUPPORTED US PROPOSAL FOR AD HOC GROUP UNDER DSYG PANSA

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TO COORDINATE THE ACTIONS THAT NATO COMMITTEES AND SUB-
ORDINATE BODIES MUST TAKE TO INVIGORATE AIRLIFT PLANNING AND
ACHIEVE TANGIBLE RESULTS. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING COUNCIL MEETING JAN 15 MAJOR GENERAL CASEY GAVE
OUTSTANDING BRIEFING ON US STRATEGIC AIRLIFT WHICH HIGHLIGHTED:
(1) US AIRLIFT CAPABILITY BY RELATING IT TO US PERFORMANCE DURING
MID-EAST WAR; (2) THE USE AIRLIFT MODERNIZATION PROGRAM, (3) THE
INADEQUATE AERIAL PORT SITUATION IN EUROPE; AND (4) NEED FOR
INTRA-THEATER NATO CIVIL AIR FLEET. GEN. CASEY POINTED OUT THAT
ACTIONS TO IMPROVE NATO AIRLIFT CAPABILITY WOULD NOT GO UNNOTICED BY
THE WARSAW PACT AND WOULD CONSTITUTE VISIBLE DEMONSTRATION OF THE
COLLECTIVE RESOLVE OF THE ALLIANCE. HE POSTULATED THAT ANY
POSITIVE ACTIONS TO IMPROVE US ABILITY TO REINFORCE EUROPE
RAPIDLY WOULD ADD TO DETERRENCE. SYG AND PERMREPS LAUDED THE
BRIEFING WARMLY, CATEGORIZING IT AS AN ILLUMINATING AND IMPRESSIVE
DESCRIPTION OF US AIRLIFT CAPABILITY.

2. FOLLOWING THE BRIEFING, QUESTIONS FROM AMBASSADOR CENTERED
AROUND US CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS TO MAKE CIVIL AIRCRAFT AVAIL-
ABLE IN TIMES OF TENSION AND CRISIS; VULNERABILITY OF NATO
AIRFIELDS IN EUROPE; THE US LONG TERM AIRLIFT IMPROVEMENT PLANS;
AND COMPARISON OF US AND SOVIET PERFORMANCE DURING 1973
MIDDLE EAST WAR.

3. SYG LUNS REACTED MOST FAVORABLY TO US STRATEGIC AIRLIFT
BRIEFING. HE SHOWED GREAT INTEREST DURING QUESTION PERIOD,
ADDING SUPPORT AND EXPANDING ON RESPONSES TO PERMREP
QUESTIONS. AMBASSADOR MENZIES (CANADA) INQUIRED ABOUT LEGISLA-
TIVE PROVISIONS FOR US CIVIL RESERVE AIR FLEET; STATUS OF
RESERVE AIRCREWS; AND WHETHER CIVIL AIRCREWS COULD BE COM-
PELLED TO OPERATE IN A WAR ZONE DURING NATIONAL EMERGENCIES.
GENERAL CASEY EXPLAINED PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE ORDER AND CON-
GRESSIONAL LEGISLATION WHICH MAKES CIVIL AIRFLEET RESOURCES
AVAILABLE TO DOD. HE STRESSED THAT CONTRACTS CONTAINING PRE-
NEGOTIATED FEES REQUIRE CIVIL AIR CARRIERS TO MAKE AIRCRAFT
AVAILABLE (IDENTIFIED BY TAIL NUMBER) REGARDLESS OF DESTINA-
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TION OR CARGO TO BE HAULED. HE CLARIFIED THAT AIRLINES
ENTER THESE CONTRACTS ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS. SYG LUNS SAID GEN
CASEY'S ANSWERS TO AMB MENZIES' QUESTIONS SHOULD BE STUDIED
FOR APPLICATION TO EUROPE. AMB DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) REQUESTED
THE TEXT OF THE BREIFING. GENERAL CASEY PROMISED TO GET IT TO
ALL PERMREPS. DE STAERCKE QUESTIONED THE STATUS OF AIRLIFT
PLANNING IN OTHER ALLIED COUNTRIES AND ASKED ABOUT PRESENT
ARRANGEMENTS FOR AIRLIFT COOPERATION AMONG THE ALLIES. GENERAL
CASEY RESPONDED THAT NATO HAS GOOD ORGANIZATION FOR COOPERATIVE
EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY THE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS CONSTRAINING UT-
ILIZATION OF NATO AIRLIFT RESOURCES.

4. AMB PECK (UK) NOTED THAT BOTH THE US AND SOVIETS HAD

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OPERATED IN PERMISSIVE AIR ENVIRONMENT DURING THE MID-EAST
WAR. HE POINTED OUT THAT DURING EUROPEAN WAR THE AIR-
FIELDS WOULD BE MORE VULNERABLE, AND HE ASKED HOW THE US
PLANNED TO OPERATE UNDER HOSTILE CONDITIONS. GENERAL
CASEY ACKNOWLEDGED THE DIFFICULTY, AND WENT ON TO EMPHASIZE THAT
THE BEST SOLUTION IS TO HAVE HIGHLY EFFECTIVE WARNING AND AIR
DEFENSE, AMPLE ALTERNATE AIRFIELDS AND A GOOD RAPID RUNWAY REPAIR
CAPABILITY. DURING FURTHER QUESTIONS, SYG LUNS STRESSED THE

US SUPERIORITY OVER SOVIET CAPABILITY IN TURNING AROUND
AIRLIFT AIRCRAFT, AND SAID HE WAS WAS IMPRESSED BY THE TIMELY
DELIVERY OF WAR MATERIEL TO ISRAEL'S FRONT LINES. WHEN
ASKED WHY US OUT-PERFORMED SOVIETS, GEN CASEY SAID THE SOVIETS
MAY HAVE MADE LANDINGS EN ROUTE THAT WERE NOT NECESSARY;
US LOAD CARRYING CAPABILITY WAS THREE TIMES THAT OF SOVIETS.
HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT US USED LESS THAN 15 PCT OF ITS AIRLIFT
CAPABILITY DURING YOM KIPPUR WAR WHILE CONTINUING TO MEET ALL
OTHER GLOBAL US AIRLIFT NEEDS.

5. CHARGE BOSS (FRG) INQUIRED IF US AIRLIFT HAD GLOBAL NON-
STOP RANGE, AND WHEN WOULD US HAVE CAPABILITY TO AIRLIFT
FULL ARMY DIVISIONS TO EUROPE IN SEVEN DAYS. GENERAL CASEY
CONFIRMED THAT US AIRLIFT HAS GLOBAL RANGE. HE RECALLED FOR
THE COUNCIL THAT IT WOULD TAKE LESS THAN 24 HOURS TO MOVE TO
EUROPE THE US EARMARKED DIVISIONS WHICH MARRY UP WITH
PREPOSITIONED EQUIPMENT; HOWEVER, REDUCING TIME TO MOVE THE

FOLOW-ON DIVISONS DEPENDS IN LARGE MEASURE UPON FUTURE CONGRESSIONAL
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ACTIONS.

6. FOLLOWING QUESTION PERIOD AMB BRUCE EMPHASIZED THAT NATO
SHOULD NOW BEGIN TO EXAMINE ACTIONS ALLIES CAN TAKE TO
IMPROVE THEIR OWN AIRLIFT PLANNING AND DETERMINE WHAT ACTIONS
NATO CAN TAKE COLLECTIVELY TO IMPROVE AIRLIFT RECEPTION
ARRANGEMENTS AND FACILITIES FOR THE OVERALL COLLECTIVE
SECURITY. SYG LUNS AND PERMREPS AGREED TO US PROPOSAL TO
ESTABLISH AD HOC GROUP UNDER GUIDANCE OF DSYG PANSA TO RECOM-
MEND PLANNING MEASURES, ASSIGN TASKS, AND DEVELOP AN APPROPRIATE
SCHEDULE FOR THEIR COMPLETION.BRUCE

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CINCUSAFE
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